(c) whether Government would achieve the goal of rendering unemployment to a negligible proportion by 2003; and

(d) if so, to what extent?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) Yes, Sir. The Committee had expressed concern over the unemployment scenario in the country particularly for the educated youth.

(b) As per the quinquennial sample surveys carried out by National Sample Survey Organisation, estimated number of openly unemployed in the country has gone up from approximately 7.5 million in 1993-94 to 9.0 million in 1999-2000.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. However, Government have taken steps to reduce the incidence of unemployment in the country. The Special Group headed by Dr. S.P. Gupta, Member, Planning Commission was constituted to suggest strategy and programme for creation of one crore employment opportunities per year during each year of the tenth Plan period. The Group proposed creation of 5 crore job opportunities over the tenth Plan period. Out of these, nearly 2 crore have to come from specific employment generation programmes and 3 crore from growth buoyancy. On the basis of the pattern of employment generation as proposed by the Special Group, it is estimated that unemployment will be substantially reduced by the end of the Eleventh Plan.

Employment opportunities during Tenth Plan

*336. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a target has been fixed to create five crores additional employment and self-employment opportunities during the Tenth Five Year Plan period; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The Planning Commission constituted a "Special Group on Targeting 10 Million Employment Opportunities per year" under the Chairmanship of Dr. S.P. Gupta, Member, Planning Commission. The Special Group gave recommendations for

generating five crore-employment opportunities in the Tenth Plan. It identified sectors/subsectors with employment potential like agriculture, including social forestry, animal husbandry, fishing, horticulture and related areas and small and medium industries, construction, tourism, information technology, financial sector, education and health.

Expenditure on computerisation and information dissemination

†*337. SHRI LAJPAT RAI:
SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have approved two to three per cent expenditure on computerisation and information dissemination works out of the annual budgetary allocation made to various Ministries/ Departments;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the percentage of expenditure on the above works out of the allocated amount during the year 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The Planning Commission has not approved any specific allocation for computerisation and information dissemination for the various Ministries/Departments. However, on the recommendation of the "Expert Group for Computerisation of the Information on Personnel and Citizen Services" set up by the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, the Planning Commission had requested the various Ministries/Departments in April, 1998, to make a provision of 2-3% of their plan/budget for programmes/schemes relating to Information Technology.

(c) Does not arise.

Highway from Agartala to Bangladesh

*338. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.